

REMARKS

Upon entry of the second supplemental amendment, Claims 1-4 and 6-12, 14-26 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 35-37 are canceled. Claims 5, 13, and 27-34 were previously canceled. Claim 24 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 35, now canceled, wherein said composition additionally comprises Carnallite or a salt of Carnallite.

Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested as Applicants kindly submit that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

Statement of Examiner's Interview

Applicants kindly thank the Examiner for allowing a telephonic interview on July 8, 2004. In the telephonic interview, Applicants' representative called the Examiner to inquire about the status of the Supplemental Amendment filed June 9, 2004, as a Final Office Action was mailed on June 15, 2004.

Because the filing date of the Supplemental Amendment filed June 9, 2004, antedated the issuance of the Final Office Action mailed June 15, 2004, the Examiner confirmed that she removed the finality of the Office Action, and that she entered the Supplemental Amendment. However, she also indicated that she may issue a Restriction Requirement for Claims 24 and 36.

Applicants' representative pointed out to the Examiner that in the Supplemental Amendment, Applicants' incorporated allowable subject matter pertaining to Carnallite or a salt of Carnallite into independent Claim 1, which should cause Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-4,

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6-12 and 14-23 (Claims 5 and 13 were previously canceled) to be allowed in the next substantive Office Action.

Applicants' representative pointed out to the Examiner that, in the Supplemental Amendment, Applicants also rewrote Claim 24 into independent form based on the Examiner's indication in previous Office Actions that Claim 24 contained allowable subject matter, expecting in good faith that Claims 24-26 would also be in condition for allowance. Applicants also added new Claims 35-37 in the Supplemental Amendment. However, even though Applicants' representative would expect the Examiner to allow independent Claim 24 and dependent Claims 25-26 and 35, the Examiner tentatively indicated that she may issue a restriction requirement, pending her further review, for independent Claims 24 and 36. The Examiner explained that she was expecting to see the Carnallite element in each of the independent claims, including Claim 24.

No agreement was reached to the final status of the claims as the Examiner indicated that she would take more time to review the file and issue an Office Action by her internal due date of August 9, 2004.

Based on the Examiner's Interview, Applicants file the present Second Supplemental Amendment in order to obtain allowance of the pending claims, instead of choosing to await the Examiner's next communication, which may be in the form of a new Office Action and/or new restriction requirement.

That is, Applicants would like to expedite the prosecution of this application by clearly putting the application into condition for allowance based on the Examiner's comments.

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Applicants submit that this Second Supplemental Amendment amending Claim 24 to incorporate the Carnallite element of Claim 35, thereby canceling Claim 35, and canceling Claims 36-37 puts the application into condition for allowance. Please note, however, that Applicants kindly reserve the right to file a continuation or divisional application directed to any canceled claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

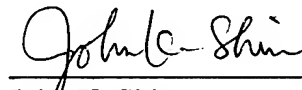
Respectfully submitted,

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